

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully note the Examiner's indication that at least Claims 2, 9, 10, 12, 19 and 20 are considered to be allowable and would be allowed if either amended into independent form or made dependent from an allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, in order to place the application into order for allowance, applicants have cancelled Claim 2, without prejudice, and incorporated the limitation thereof into Claim 1, so as to render that particular claim to be allowable, as indicated in the Office Action. The remaining package claims, Claims 5-10, have also been amended so as to be either directly or indirectly dependent from allowable Claim 1, the latter of which incorporates the allowable limitation of Claim 2.

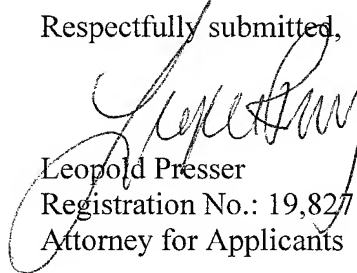
Similarly, method Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable Claim 12 therein, and the various dependent claims, Claims 15-20 are deemed to be allowable in dependence upon the amended Claim 11. Claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Furthermore, applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application in due course directed at the previously cancelled Claims 21-23, which represent non-elected subject matter withdrawn from this application.

In view of the foregoing amendments, which are deemed to be in full compliance with the requirements of the Office Action, the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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